(d) whether the Railways have changed weighment point few kilometers away from the loading point ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Consignors, in loading are required not to exceed the permissible carrying capacity of the wagon used. While cent percent check of weight of loaded wagons at the originating points is not possible for operational reasons, sample checks are conducted enroute or at destination to detect cases of overloading of wagons.

(b) No, Sir. Coal can be booked at 'Railway Risk' Rates, on payment of prescribed tariff.

(c) Coal loading is done in the Colliery sidings by staff of Collieries and is not supervised by the Railways.

(d) While weighbridges provided by the Collieries are located at close proximity to the loading points. weighbridges provided by the Railways are located taking into consideration the suitability from the operational point of view. Two Railway Weighbridges at Bhaga and Mohuda on South Eastern Railway have been closed due to inadequate coal traffic. Consequently, distances between some coal loading and weighment points have increased.

Privatisation of Coach and Locomotive Units

100. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has suggested privatisation of the coach and locomotive production units of the Indian Railways ;

(b) whether the Railwaymen's Federations have strongly protested against the privatisation move ; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, the Federations have protested against the privatisation of railway catering.

(c) The Government will not take any decision which leads to any retrenchment of staff.

Conversion of Meter Gauge into Broad Gauge in Goa

101. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of converting the meter gauge into broad gauge in Goa has been initiated ;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be completed ; and

(c) what is the total length of this track in Goa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The work has been included in the Budget for 1992-93.

(b) During the 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) 79.06 kms.

Konkan Railway Corporation

102. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no takers to build Konkan Railway bridges due to non availability of the technology; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to over-come this difficulty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.